

**FINAL  
SUMMARY REPORT  
CITIZEN SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
December 8, 2016**

The Citizen Science Committee met December 8, 2016. Council staff provided a presentation outlining 2016 progress towards developing a citizen science program for the South Atlantic Council. The presentation presented immediate needs (dedicated program staff) and challenges for developing a citizen program (funding for projects and program; lack of dedicated staff; and selection of appropriate initial project). Staff also provided an overview of a “kickstarter” (pilot) project idea that would address discard characterization for scamp grouper using a mobile app reporting platform across all sectors. Using the scamp discard kickstarter project as an example, staff presented three options for how a project could be initiated under different staffing scenarios and outlined the benefits and risks of each option.

- **Option 1:** Kickstarter project is initiated with no dedicated staff support.
  - Activity - Mobile app is built and project is open with no oversight
  - Benefits - Low cost
  - Risks - Low success rate; less chance data could be used
- **Option 2:** Kickstarter project is initiated with temporary staff support.
  - Activity - Mobile app is built and project has temporary staff support
  - Benefits – Moderate cost with some staffing
  - Risks - Moderate success rate; staff availability limited and requires additional supervision; data may not be available in time
- **Option 3:** Kickstarter project is initiated with full time staff support.
  - Activity - Mobile app is built and project has full-time staff support
  - Benefits – Project and program has support to get off the ground
  - Risks - High success rate; Highest cost option

Staff proposed an option to support Option 3 utilizing existing Council budget resources:

- Temporarily move the Outreach Specialist into the position of Citizen Science Program Manager to be supervised by the Deputy Director for Science & Statistics.
- Hire a new Outreach Specialist on a contractual basis to be supervised by the Citizen Science Program Manager during the transition.
- Citizen Science Program Manager seeks funding to support the kickstarter project through establishment of outside partnerships.
- Continue to seek program support through NMFS.

Council discussed the focus of the kickstarter project, the cost to support a full-time staff person and the cost to build the mobile app for the kickstarter project.

The committee made the following motion:

**MOTION #1:** RECOMMEND OPTION 3 AS PRESENTED BY STAFF FOR A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM. IN THE EVENT THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THEN RECOMMEND OPTION 2.  
MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL.